

# Christmas Decorations in Facilities



**Q:** Can a facility have a live or cut Christmas tree inside?

**A:** No, The use of live trees and other decorations such as wreaths and swags shall be prohibited; however, you can have artificial trees and other decorations if they are labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being flame retardant.



**Q:** Can we decorate resident room doors with Christmas wrapping paper?

**A:** No. The addition of flammable decorations creates a flashover hazard that can overwhelm the sprinkler system.



**Q:** Can a facility have Christmas lights and other decorations inside?

**A:** Yes. All lights and decorations shall be UL Listed, be in good condition, and plugged directly into an outlet. Plugging in one light string into the end of another or (piggybacking) and the use of multiple adapters, extension cords and power strips shall be prohibited. Stringing lights around exits or doors shall be prohibited as this masks the exit so it is no longer plainly visible.





**Q:** Can our facility decorate the outside of our building?

**A:** Yes. All lights must UL Listed. Use only light strings that are rated for outdoor use, light strings are rated for either indoor or outdoor use, and some lights are rated for both. Check the packaging for the recommended amount of strings that can be plugged into each other to prevent overloading the strings. Check all decorations for physical damage such as broken light sockets or cracked insulation around the wires.



**Q:** Can we use extension cords on the outside of the facility to run our decorations?

**Y:** Yes. Use only extension cords rated for outdoor use, and of the proper length to prevent plugging one cord into another cord, known as piggybacking, and a gauge heavy enough to handle the loads expected to be placed on it. The use of power strips and multiple electrical adapters is prohibited in order to prevent overloading the circuit.



**Precautions:** Turn off all lights and decorations before going to bed or leaving your home. Also any open flames inside of a facility is strictly prohibited; (i.e. candles, incense, candle lit luminarios)

